



## Perris News

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### Citizen's Panel Helps Plan Events for the Perris Centennial

A committee of Perris residents, business owners and community supporters is planning a series of signature events—everything from a fashion show to a Hollywood premiere at the newly restored art deco Theatre to a major celebration at the 2011 Southern California Fair—to commemorate the City's 100th birthday.

Perris turns 100 years old May 26 and the City intends to make 2011 a year a showcase celebrating its past, highlighting its present and touting its future.

The citizens' panel helping Perris celebrate its centennial is working to create a 100th anniversary logo for the big birthday and will coordinate events in 2011. One new event is a 100-mile bicycle race to coincide with the Southern California Fair in October.

The fair is scheduled to host a "Perris Day" commemorating 100 years of the City's history and accomplishments. The Perris Valley Airport and Skydiving Center is planning a series of 100-person jumps in 2011 to coincide the City centennial. The Perris Auto Speedway once again is set to offer Perris residents free admission on July 4, 2011, when the track hosts one of the best fireworks shows in the Inland Empire.

The City of Perris centennial will also be highlighted at annual events like Fred T. Perris Day, the Rods and Rails festival, the Black History Month, Veterans and Christmas parades and the TODEC Multi-Cultural festival. The Perris Valley Historical and Museum Association is planning a centennial calendar that should be available by mid-November.

"It's not every day you can celebrate a 100th birthday," City Manager Richard Belmudez told a meeting of centennial planners recently. "We are very excited about it and looking forward to it."

Emmett Reid, who is part of the committee organizing the Black History Month Parade in February, said he is looking forward to 2011. The year marks the 10th anniversary of the Black History parade in Perris.

"Perris is one of the few cities that sponsors such an event," Reid said. "It means a lot to us. City officials in Perris are great to work with—you can't beat the people here. We like the collaboration we get from the City of Perris."

Luz Gallegos, a member of TODEC, which works to educate and empower immigrants in Perris, also praised the City's commitment to supporting a diverse community.

"We are happy to be here as the City of Perris begins planning for its centennial," she said. "We want to thank the City for its great support."

Midgie Parker, a member of the Perris Valley Historical and Museum Association, said the centennial calendar includes photos of D Street, the annual potato harvest that put Perris on the map a century ago and several City landmarks, including the Southern Hotel, Depot Building, Bank of Perris and Rock House.

"We have been waiting for the centennial to arrive," Parker said. "Being part of a historical society and seeing your city celebrate its 100th birthday is exciting. We hope to show Perris off to a lot of people."

The planned list of Perris centennial events is listed below. Some specific dates are tentative.

- February: Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner with a Hollywood Movie Premiere Theme.
- Fred T. Perris Day
- Black History Month Parade
- March: Fashion Show: Fashion through the eras.
- April: Arbor Day/Pioneer Day at Lake Perris
- American Legion International Chili Cook-off
- May: Rotary/Service Clubs Honors Dinner
- June: Rods and Rails Festival
- July: Perris Auto Speedway July 4th fireworks and racing program
- August: National Night Out
- September: TODEC Multi-Cultural Festival
- October: Perris Day at the Southern California Fair/100 years of Perris
- November: Veterans Day Parade
- December: Holiday parade



Perris City Manager Richard Belmudez explains upcoming events to commemorate the City's centennial. "It's not every day you can celebrate a 100th birthday."



Midgie Parker of the Perris Valley Historical and Museum Association holds a mock-up of a planned centennial calendar.